

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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AID-10 RSR-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 /080 W

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O R 241040Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6395

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSAAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 15353

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJ: SITREP

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE
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EMBASSY AS OF 1800 AUG 24, 1973

SUMMARY

INDONESIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY REJECTED COMMUNIST DELEGATION MOVE TO ABANDON ADDITIONAL REGION VII TEAM SITES, AND PLAN TO RETURN SOON TO THE SITE AT TRI TON. FRUITLESS DISCUSSION CONTINUES IN FPJMT AND IN TPJMC. CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN MR 1 CONTINUE AT THE LOW AVERAGE RATE OF TWELVE DAILY. IN MR 2, ACTIVITY CONSINUES AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THREE NORTHERN PROVINCES. ARVN ATTACKS AGAINST DOMINANT TERRAIN FLANKING TRUNG NGHIA APPEAR TO BE MAKING SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY AND MAY LEAD TO A BREAK IN THE LONG, COSTLY STALEMATE. MILITARY ACTIVITY DROPPED OFF NOTICEABLY IN MR 3. A SUCCESSFUL AERIAL RESUPPLY AND EVACUATION MISSION WAS EXECUTED AT TONG LE CHAN, WHERE MORALE IS REPORTED TO BE HIGH. OFFICIALS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE EXTENSIVE MEASURES TO COUNTER THREATENED VC INTERFERENCE WITH SUNDAY'S POLLING. INCIDENTS IN THE DELTA ON AUGUST 23 WERE UNUSUALLY NUMEROUS BUT ALMOST ENTIRELY MINOR, AND CASUALTIES WERE LOW.

PART I: ICCS

THE INDONESIAN CHIEF OF ICCS REGION VII HAS STATED THAT THE INDONESIANS WILL SOON BE RETURNING -- WITH OR WITHOUT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS -- TO THE TEAM SITE AT TRI TON, CHAU DOC PROVINCE, WHICH HAD BEEN EVACUATED IN LATE JULY AFTER TWO MORTAR ROUNDS HAD FALLEN INTO THE COMPOUND. HE ADDED THAT THE INDONESIAN SUB-REGIONAL TEAM LEADERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE OBSERVATIONS UPON RECEIPT OF COMPLAINTS AND ASSURANCES OF SECURITY FROM THE JMC, WITHOUT FURTHER REFERENCE TO CAN THO OR SAIGON. REPORTS OF SUCH OBSERVATIONS WOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS.

CONGEN CAN THO HAS LEARNED FROM A GVN SOURCE THAT THE INDONESIANS HAVE REBUFFED COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS' SUGGESTIONS TO WITHDRAW ALL TEAMS FROM CHUONG THIEN AND CA MAU -- AS REY HAD EARLIER REFUSED A SIMILAR HUNGARIAN SUGGESTION IN GIONG TROM, KIEN HOA PROVINCE.

PART II: FPJMT

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THE AUGUST 23 SESSION WAS FURTHER FRUITLESS DISCUSSION OF THE BUILDING OF CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS. THE US DEL PROPOSED THAT THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE AND THAT OF FAMILY VISITS TO GRAVES BE REFERRED TO DEPUTIES SO THAT PLENARY SESSIONS COULD FOCUS ON OTHER PORTIONS OF THE DRAFT MINUTE ON ARTICLE 8-B. THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING. GVN DEL REQUESTED THE DRV PROVIDE INFORMATION ON RVN PERSONNEL IN DETENTION OR DEAD IN NORTH VIET-NAM, AND WAS TOLD THAT ITS REQUEST MUST BE DIRECTED TO

THE PRG DEL. AT A SESSION BREAK, DRV AND PRG DELS FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN A WEEK ATTEMPTED TO LINK GVN RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES TO EARLY EXCHANGE OF MIA INFORMATION AND THE REPARTITION OF US REMAINS. NORTH VIETNAMESE FISHERMAN LE HANG (SAIGON 15006) WAS RETURNED TO NORTH VIET-NAM VIA THE AUGUST 24 SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHT.

PART III: MR I

CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS CONTINUED TO AVERAGE TWELVE A DAY, AND 75 PERCENT OF THE 25 VIOLATIONS WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF). RVNAF BOMBED ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT EMBLEMMENTS NEAR BACH MA MOUNTAIN, GVN LOSSES WERE UP; 24 KIA; THREE MIA, AND 37 WIA: NVA/VC LOSSES WERE DOWN; 10 KIA AND ONE RALLIER.

PART IV: MR 2

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 2 OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL. THIRTY-EIGHT INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED CONCENTRATED IN BINH DINH, PHU YEN AND KONTUM. MOST WERE CARRIED AS ENEMY ABF, THOUGH THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF MINING INCIDENTS, INCLUDING ONE ON THE RAILROAD IN PHU YEN. CASUALTIES DECREASED MARKEDLY IN THE ENEMY SIDE, AND REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME FOR THE RVNAF: VC/NVA: 30 KIA, ONE CAPTURED; RVNAF: 24 KIA, 53 WIA. THERE WERE 69 AIR STRIKES ALL BUT TWO WERE IN BINH DINH.

2. GENMKQ CAM, COMMANDER OF THE 23RD DIVISION, HAS INITIATED A NEW STRATEGY TO RETAKE TRUNG NGHIA AND POLEI KRONG. HE NOW PLANS TO SUPPLEMENT THE FRIENDLY TOE-HOLD IN THE FRONT LINE TRENCHES EAST OF TRUNG NGHIA (RETAKEN EARLIER THIS MONTH) BY ATTACKS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH. ONE REGIMENT HAS REPORTEDLY FOUGHT PAST AN ENEMY BATTAILION TO GAIN A POSITION ON THE RIVER
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BANK ACROSS FROM TRUNG NGHIA, AND NEED ONLY TO TAKE THE LAST ENEMY STRONGPOINT TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE BANK OPPOSITE TRUNG NGHIA AND BE IN A POSITION TO SHELL OR ATTACK TRUNG NGHIA ITSELF. MEANWHILE, THE 45TH REGT. ON THE EAST, HAS USED SAPPER SQUADS TO STILL MUCH OF THE ARTILLERY FIRE WHICH HAD PERVIOUSLY BROKEN THE 45TH'S FRONTAL ASSAULTS ON THE TOWN.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00

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USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART V: MR 3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY SLACKED OFF NOTICEABLY IN MR 3 DURING 48 HOURS ENDING 0800 AUGUST 24. ONLY 22 CLASHES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE REGION. THE GVN LOSSES FOR THE PERIOD WERE FIVE KILLED, AND 29 WOUNDED; COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE FOUR KIA, AND EIGHT RALLIERS TO THE GVN. ON AUGUST 23 A LARGE AMOUNT OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
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WAS SEIZED IN A BATTALION SIZE BASE CAMP 5 KM EAST HIEN THIEN, TAY NINH PROVINCE, AND A QUANTITY OF FOODSTUFF WAS FOUND 8 KM E TRANG BANG IN HAU NGHIA.

2. A HELICOPTER OPERATION INTO TONG LE CHAN EARLY MORNING AUGUST 23 TOOK BOTH AA FIRE WHILE FLYING IN AND SHELLING WHILE ON THE GROUND, BUT BROUGHT IN FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EXTRACTED THE CREW OF THE CHOPPER DOWNED 13 DAYS PRIOR AND FOUR SERIOUSLY WOUNDED RANGERS. DURING AWARDS CEREMONY FOR EXTRACTED CREW, LTG MINH PROUDLY TOLD CONGEN THAT TROOP MORALE AT TONG LE CHAN WAS HIGH, POINTING OUT THAT NOT ONE RANGER HAD ATTEMPTED TO BOARD OUTGOING CHOPPER AS ARVN SOLDIERS DID DURING AN LOC BATTLE.

3. MR 3 G-2 REPORTS CONSIDERABLE INTELLIGENCE INDICATING COMMUNISTS ARE ORGANIZING MEETINGS AGAINST ELECTIONS, URGING PEOPLE NOT TO VOTE AND THREATENING TO KILL THOSE WHO DO; AND PLANNING TO USE ARMED UNITS TO CUT ROADS LEADING TO POLLS AND TO CONDUCT FIRE ATTACKS AND MININGS AGAINST POLLS. POLWAR TOLD OFFICIALS TO UNDERTAKE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROPAGANDA MEASURES TO NEUTRALIZE COMMUNIST ANTI-ELECTION PLOTS AND ASSURE 100 PERCENT TURNOUT. (CONGEN COMMENT: COMMUNIST ANTI-ELECTION ACTIVITY HAS NOT AMOUNTED TO MUCH SO FAR, BUT MOST OF COMMUNIST DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES ARE REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR ELECTION DAY ITSELF. ONLY WAY COMMUNISTS COULD DISCREDIT ELECTIONS IN THIS REGION WOULD BE BY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS. END COMMENT).

PART VI: MR 4

1. ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED FROM THE UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER (44) OF REPORTED INCIDENTS ACROSS THE DELTA AUGUST 23. THE 18 INCIDENTS REPORTED IN DINH TUONG WERE MINOR. IN PHUNG HIEP DISTRICT, PHONG DINH PROVINCE, AN RF COMPANY WAS SURPRISED IN THEIR SLEEP AND LOST NINE KIA, NINE WIA, AND FIVE MIA. ELSEWHERE IN THE SAME DISTRICT, THE RF CLAIMED 18 VC KIA IN TWO SEPARATE CLASHES.

2. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CEASEFIRE II THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE VINH LONG VC ARE TRYING TO STEP UP TERRORISM AGAINST GVN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. RD CADRE IN MINH DUC DISTRICT REPORTED THAT THE VC HELD A VILLAGE "PEOPLE'S MEETING" AUGUST 7 AND URGED THE ASSASSINATION OF GVN OFFICIALS, SEVERAL RF
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RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON LEADERS WERE NAMED AS "CRUEL TYRANTS AND PERSECUTORS OF THE PEOPLE."
MARTIN

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